

Like A Grain Of Mustard Seed (Mark 4:30-34)

- I. The Smallest Of Growth (Vs. 31)
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 - B. The Smallness Of Conversion
- II. The Shooting Of Growth (Vs. 32)
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Like a Grain of Mustard Seed Mark 4: 30-31

Years ago in a yard sale we bought a Batman cartoon for the boys on video. One of the cartoons was about the green thumbed villain Poison Ivy who had devised a way to grow what looked like plant people. These plant babies would come from what looked like large pea pods. The greenish babies would grow into young boys then, older adults in a matter of weeks but it wasn't long until this normal looking plant person, kept on growing and growing and growing until it grew into a hideous looking plant monster who was trying to kill Batman. Well that somewhat looks like the parable before us tonight. Where this mustard seed from the smallest of beginnings is showing amazing and remarkable growth, but its not long until the growth becomes grotesque. Yet this is a parable concerning the Kingdom of God that has church, personal, & prophetic applications.

I. The Smallness of Growth - Jesus vs 31
liken the church to a mustard seed. This would be the smallest recognizable seed to the Hebrew eye. A mustard seed was a metaphor

for that which is tiny which seems insignificant
A. The Smallness of the Church - Jesus
is comparing the church in its infancy
to a tiny mustard plant. The tiny
seed of the word of God is sown and
this tiny plant begins to grow. The
church certainly had the humblest
of beginnings, among the millions of
people upon the earth there were at first
only 12 apostles, then there were 70
disciples, on Pentecost there were 120,
then Peter preached (sowed the word) and
a harvest of 3000, then more and more.

B. The Smallness of Conversion - this
parable also has its personal applica-
tion. Our lives as believers did
not have grand and celebrated beginn-
ings. The mustard seed of the word
was sown, a word from a friend, a track
a radio announcement, a channel surfer
upon and a word lodges in a fertile place
in the heart. The life. Ah its pretty
insignificant, most your friends
said, it won't last. They've seen you
turn over a new leaf before. day to week to year

II. The Shooting of Growth - ^{v33}
This small plant begins to grow. This
small seed grows to equal the herbs around it
then surpasses it then begins to tower

over the other herbs. Some say mustard seed is the best.

A. The Reach of the Kingdom - Just like this seemingly insignificant seed grows into the spacious and massive tree, so is the expansion of the church of God. Despite her sins and failures the church of the living God reaches its branches to the far ends of the earth with the gospel of Jesus Christ. Rev 5 paints the picture of the church of God worshipping the Lamb of God. This Church is described as being from every tribe and tongue & people & nation.

B. The Reach of the Christian - Like this growth of reaching can characterize the growth of the Christian there is a first growth but tender growth. But as the believer grows by being rooted and grounded in Christ, established in the faith abounding therein w/ thanksgiving, woody strong branches of obedience begin to reach out in love to the lost world around us. I'll never forget that time of growth where God began to open my eyes to ^{living up to} lost an.

III The Shadow of Growth - This growth of the seed is only part of the story. A new character is introduced the soul. Now in the first parable the soul was Satan

Math 13:11 but same day. I am mulched between ^{doe + yeast}

A. A Hiding Place for Satan - Adrien

Paciers calls these birds the dirty birds in the Mustard tree. These birds nest in the trees to devour the seed, ^{and} to find cover from the elements taking advantage of the tree. The church of Jesus Christ today is quickly becoming a safe haven for the dirty birds of false doctrine, sensuality, ecumenism and homosexuality. Episcopal with sodomite bishops, Presbyterian ^{catholic, mormon,} same sex marriage on, on, Charismatic movement grows to grotesque proportions.

B. A Hiding Place for Sin - We can

apply these dirty birds to our own lives ourselves. I've often been shocked at my children and their ability to call sin sin right when they see it. Ex. Family Gatherings. The new convert sees it black and white, but it is the seasoned saint that colors everything in gray. As we grow we become more vulnerable to pride and self confidence. Our newspapers are filled with ^{peace} stories of fallen giants where the ^{birds are hiding} dirty birds ^{sin}.

IV Closing - Take heed lest ye fall!

As you have grown, are dirty birds roosting in your branches. Martin Luther's I can't keep a bird from landing on my head ^{can keep him from building nest}